

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action mailed October 9, 2003 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants note, with appreciation, the indicated allowability of claim 41 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claim 41 in independent form including the limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 41 is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also cancelled claim 1, without prejudice, and amended claims 2 and 8 to depend from claim 41. Claims 2 - 3 and 8 - 10 are dependent claims that depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 41 and as such incorporate all the limitations of claim 41. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 - 3 and 8 - 10 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claim 41, as well as for their own limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, all of the presently pending claims are now in a condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Early allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560. In the event there are any fee deficiencies, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 9, 2004 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: 